MOBILITY

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

BRENDAN BYRNE, Governor | SEPTEMBER 1980 | LOUIS J. GAMBACCINI, Commissioner

New map

The 1980-81 official New Jersey Transportation Map and Guide is due to arrive in October.

Requests for the new map, which is for free distribution only, will be accepted after October 1. Postcards should be addressed to: NJMap, 1035 Parkway Avenue, Box 101, Trenton, NJ 08625. Please include quantity needed, name, address and telephone number of requesting organization or individual.

'Early Action' road funds distributed

The prize really does go to the early birds.

DOT has awarded almost all of the $24 million appropriated from the 1979 Bond Issue by the Legislature in April for more than 271 construction projects in all 21 counties. It represents half of the $48 million dedicated to Local Aid in the 1979 Bond Issue.

Counties and municipalities have been submitting RRR (resurfacing, restoring, rehabilitation) construction projects which are ready to go for the 1980 construction season. By the end of August, the Department had already awarded funds for 213 RRR Early Action Programs. The remaining contracts will be awarded by November 1.

TRAFFIC

A traffic circle improvement contest sponsored by the Department will award two $1,000 grand prizes and twelve $500 semi-finalist prizes.

Design ideas are being sought for improving the Ellisburg Circle in Camden County and the Eatontown Circle in Monmouth County, two of New Jersey's most congested circles. Traffic circles, many of which were created in the 1930s when there was much less traffic volume, constitute a major traffic hazard in this state. $20 million was set aside in the 1979 Transportation Bond Issue for improvement of congested circles and intersections.

CIRCLE CONTEST

Cost-effective solutions and transportation system management approaches will be given prime consideration by the judges.

The nationwide contest is open to persons with a background in traffic or highway engineering. A letter of intent briefly outlining qualifications must be submitted to: NJDOT, Circle Design Competition, 1035 Parkway Avenue, Room 156, Trenton, NJ 08625.

A contest kit, including aerial maps and traffic counts, will be supplied. Contest deadline is December 31.

NJ TRANSIT orders 350 new buses

NJ TRANSIT, the statewide public transit agency, launched its second year with the authorization from its Board of Directors for the purchase of 350 modern commuter buses equipped with wheelchair lifts. This represents the first order in the country for commuter buses with the special devices required by federal regulations on access for the elderly and handicapped.

The authorization for the new buses, which includes the option to increase the order to 700, will be funded by the Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and the 1979 Transportation Bond Issue. The total cost of 700 new buses is expected to be approximately $98 million.

The advanced design wheelchair lift-equipped buses are part of NJ TRANSIT's plan to replace vehicles more than 12 years old. The Board of Directors has also approved the application to the UMTA for $6 million for the rehabilitation of existing buses. According to Jerome C. Premo, Executive Director of NJ TRANSIT, the new bus purchase is a replacement program, while the rehabilitation program is designed to increase the total number of buses in service. "We are committed to upgrading bus and rail equipment and facilities to improve day to day operations," he said.

Continued on page 4

Markers to aid motorists

The Deparment is launching a new raised reflective pavement marker program at two locations this Fall to assist motorists in traveling safely in rain, sleet and fog.

The two initial projects will be on U.S. Route 46 between Route 31 and Interstate Route 80 in Knowlton and White Townships in Warren County between Interstate Route 295 in Lawrence Township, Mercer County and U.S. Route 130 in North Brunswick Township, Middlesex County.

The Department has received $3 million in pavement marking demonstration funds from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for the program. The Route 46 and Route 1 projects are expected to cost $300,000.

The reflective face is formed of parallel rows of precisely molded acrylic cubes. Each cube forms an optical prism that receives and reflects light in an intense, closely controlled pattern. This triple mirror action reflects brilliantly even under the most adverse conditions of rain, sleet and fog.

The Department plans to install the reflectors on narrow bridges, sharp curves, intersections, and heavily traveled and high hazard roadways.

Tests reveal that the marker will give many years of service. The reflective element has been engineered to insure maximum self-cleaning action.

Ombudsperson named for Rt. 55

Commissioner Louis J. Gambaccini has apponted Nadia Tertan Harris the Department's ombudsperson in Gloucester County for the Route 55 project.

For the convenience of local residents and officials who have questions about Route 55, Ms. Harris will be working in DOT's Deptford office (533 Delsea Drive, Deptford, NJ 08093, 609-848-3630).

DOT engineering, planning and right of way staffs working on the project will make their information available through the new ombudsperson in Gloucester.

Ms. Harris' previous responsibilities for the Office of Community Involvement encompassed the seven southernmost New Jersey counties.

MOBILITY is a quarterly publication of the New Jersey Department of Transportation, Office of Public Affairs, to inform the general public about the Department and its activities. If you want to be on the mailing list, write to MOBILITY, Bureau of Publications, New Jersey Department of Transportation, 1035 Parkway Ave., Box 101, Trenton, N.J. 08625.

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Department environmentalists work in stream below construction area of Interstate Route 195 in Howell Township. Fabric stretched on fencing is positioned to prevent soil erosion.

DOT monitors aquatic life

"Click-click." The sound echoes across the Mingamahone Brook, piercing the morning stillness.

"Click-click." A small eel floats to the surface of the stream and is quickly scooped up in a net.

"Two men study their catch for a minute and then gently return it to the stream. The eel floats belly-up for a moment then rights itself and swims quickly away, unaware of the role it has just played in New Jersey's quest for more environmentally sensitive highway construction.

The men, environmental specialists from DOT's Bureau of Environmental Analysis, are monitoring the brook and the nearby Manasquan River. Both are stocked with trout each year by the N.J. Division of Fish and Game. DOT is insuring that the construction of the final section of Interstate Route 195 in Howell Township is not adversely affecting aquatic life. In order to examine their overall health, including a check for parasites, an electro-shocking device is used to momentarily stun and avoid injuring fish. Two poles, connected to a power pack worn by an examiner are extended into the water. A "click" of the switch sends a charge of electricity through the water, stunning fish in its path.

The fish study, along with daily samples of water quality and a program to prevent soil and water run-off from the construction site, are part of the Department's commitment to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the N.J. Department of Environmental Protection to construct Interstate Route 195 with minimum impact on the waterways.

According to Mike Kaminsky, the principal environmental specialist supervising the field team, this comprehensive study to document the actual effects of highway construction on water quality is the first to be performed in New Jersey and probably is one of only a few conducted in the country.

Water quality study is a combined effort of the Bureaus of Environment Analysis and Quality Control. Tests are done both up and downstream from the construction site and the project's engineer is advised where to locate silt collecting fences and bales of hay which prevent pollution of the stream by construction activities.

"This is one of the best trout streams in the southern portion of the state," said DOT fishery biologist Bill Yingst. "We are doing everything in our power to keep it that way."

The study will not end when construction is completed. Tests will be conducted on a monthly basis for a year after the roadway is open to traffic. This will permit comparison of before and after data as well as to insure the continued ecological health of the waterway.

Commissioner is honored

Commissioner Louis J. Gambaccini was among the 17 winners of the National Governors Association's distinguished service awards named at the Annual Governor's Conference in Denver in August.

Gambaccini was cited for developing a new statewide master plan for transportation and for his work in assuring the passage of legislation giving the state authority to take over unprofitable bus lines and operate route service.

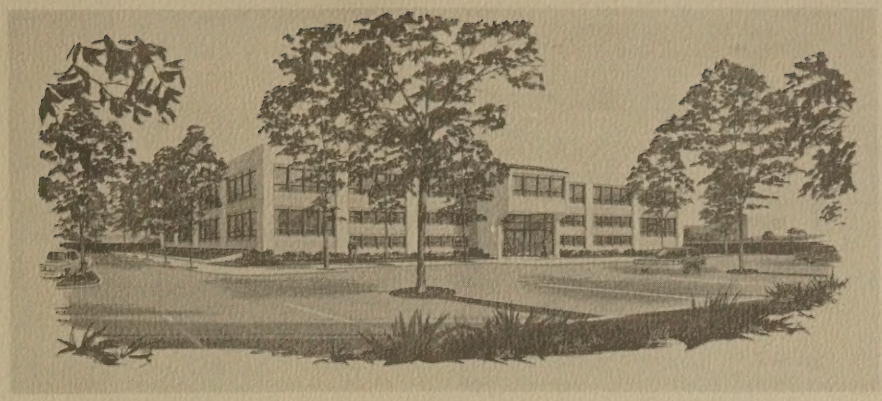
NJDOT
FACTS FILE

Accidents up slightly in 1979

Figures just released from DOT's Bureau of Accident Records show that the numbers of motor vehicle accidents in 1979 were slightly higher than in the previous year.

The data is compiled from state and local police reports and used by the Department to plan safety improvements. The information is supplied to government and law enforcement agencies and, for a fee, to the general public.

Type of accident	1978	1979
Pedestrian	6,872	6,831
Other Motor Vehicles	174,068	173,409
Overturned	2,746	2,512
Other non-collision	1,512	1,492
Pedal/cycle	3,962	4,036
Animal	1,844	1,987
Fixed Object	37,849	40,631
Other Object	1,024	796
Railroad train	92	74
	229,969	231,768
Damages		
Fatal accidents	1,048	1,075
Fatalities	1,162	1,166
Injury accidents	85,513	88,895
Persons injured	127,094	132,264
Property damage	143,408	141,798



NJ TRANSIT headquarters

This is the architect's rendering of the newly refurbished corporate headquarters of NJ TRANSIT whose address will be: McCarter Highway and Market Street, P.O. Box 10009, Newark, NJ 07101. The building, which formerly housed a post office, warehouse and factory, is situated convenient to bus and rail service. The NJ TRANSIT staff began its move from its temporary location in DOT's Lawrence Shopping Center offices at the end of summer.

New I-676 stretch helps commuters

Opening ceremonies for a new 1.6 mile stretch of I-676 in Camden were held August 8 with Governor Brendan Byrne and Commissioner Louis J. Gambaccini heading the list of dignitaries.

Completion of this final section gives Camden and Philadelphia bus and auto commuters a direct connection between the Walt Whitman and Benjamin Franklin Bridges relieving congestion on local streets, and saving time during rush hours.

In conjunction with the opening, the state will give a small park at the corner of Chelton Avenue and Master Street, built as part of the roadway contract, to the City of Camden.

A unique feature of the roadway is the installation of noise barriers, the first in New Jersey, which will reduce traffic noise in a residential area.

Hoboken's waiting room to be fixed

NJ TRANSIT has awarded a $288,000 contract for complete rehabilitation of the Hoboken Terminal waiting room, according to Jerome C. Premo, NJ TRANSIT's Executive Director.

Nearly 40,000 commuters use Hoboken Terminal daily. The station serves riders on the Morristown Line, including the Gladstone Branch and Montclair Branch, and the Main/Bergen, Boonton and Pascack Valley Lines and houses the PATH connection to New York and Newark.

This contract award covers installation of new rest room facilities, stair railings and floors; refinishing of waiting benches; complete repainting of the waiting room; and cleaning and repair of the skylights.

Renovation of the waiting room is the last of three phases of a $4.8 million rehabilitation program at the Hoboken Terminal. The first phase, restoration of the waiting room roof and skylights, was completed in 1978 at a cost of $500,000. Phase II, restoration of train shed roofs and concourse skylights, is scheduled for completion in fall of 1981 at a cost of $4 million.

The entire project is funded by a grant from the Economic Development Authority.

Transit gets boost in Wildwood

Commissioner Louis J. Gambaccini, in his capacity as Chairman of NJ TRANSIT's Board of Directors, recently participated in the dedication of a new Transportation Center in Wildwood. He commended the mayor and citizens of Wildwood for rehabilitating the former rail station. The new terminal also will serve bus and taxi passengers.

Asphalt recycling called highly successful

DOT's U.S. Route 1 asphalt recycling project completed in 1979 has been termed highly successful, with significant savings in much-needed highway maintenance funds and benefits in energy conservation and reduction of air and ground pollution.

Instead of discarding 23 miles of deteriorated pavement, DOT reused it on U.S. Route 130. The old asphalt was milled or planed off of Route 1, hauled to an asphalt plant where it was mixed with fresh stone and asphalt and used again to repave inside and outside shoulders of a 16-mile stretch of Route 130. The finished product was a hot mix asphalt shoulder mixture.

"If milling was compared to placement of conventional leveling course methods on Route 1, the savings for the entire project would have amounted to 20.7 billion British Thermal Units (BTU) or 165,000 gallons of gasoline," reports Kenneth C. Afferton, Chief of DOT's Bureau of Transportation Structures Research.

"Approximately 14,000 tons of milled material from Route 1 was extended to 27,000 tons through recycling and was used on Route 130," says Afferton. "In conservation of material resources, the combined savings were 2,900 tons of asphalt, or 712,000 gallons of gasoline and 55,700 tons of stone aggregates."

Seventy percent of the cost of the Route 1 project was federally funded and the state provided 30 percent. As a Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) approved demonstration program, the Government also awarded an additional $80,000 toward the cost of the project.

Newark subways get radios

An NJ TRANSIT-sponsored two-way radio communications system aimed at deterring crime and vandalism has been instituted on the Newark City Subway. Work was completed this summer.

The fleet of 26 subway cars was provided with radios and a central control desk was constructed. The $260,000 project was financed with $200,000 in commuter tax funds with the remainder coming from a State Law Enforcement Planning Agency grant of federal funds.

The installation was the direct result of findings and recommendations from a Transit Crime Study compiled by NJDOT's Division of Research. The new system improves the detection and reporting of crime and vandalism in the subway. Because maintenance forces will also have access to the new communications system, there should be a quicker response to subway breakdowns.

Joel R. Jacobson

New director

Governor Brendan Byrne recently announced the appointment of Energy Commissioner Joel R. Jacobson to the Board of Directors of NJ TRANSIT. He replaces Betty Wilson, former Deputy Commissioner of Environmental Protection, who has accepted a federal post.

Prior to his appointment as Commissioner of Energy, Jacobson was President of the Board of Public Utilities and served on several state boards and commissions. Jacobson was Director of Community Affairs for the United Automobile Workers and President of the N.J. Industrial Union Council of the AFL-CIO.

Jacobson and his wife, Lucie, live in South Orange with their two children.

$77 million for better rails

New Jersey received a $77 million federal grant from the Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) this summer to upgrade its commuter rail system, which is the third largest in the U.S.

The grant will be divided as follows: $62.2 million will go to the Morristown Line re-electrification project; $6.7 million to upgrade the Raritan Valley Line and $8.2 million for a statewide track rehabilitation project.

"This is another major step in the revitalization of New Jersey's public transit system," said Governor Brendan Byrne at ceremonies held in Newark's Broad Street Station during which he received a check from Theodore Lutz, UMTA Administrator. Also present were U.S. Sen. Harrison Williams; Rep. James Howard, Commissioner Louis J. Gambaccinni and Essex County Executive Peter Shapiro.

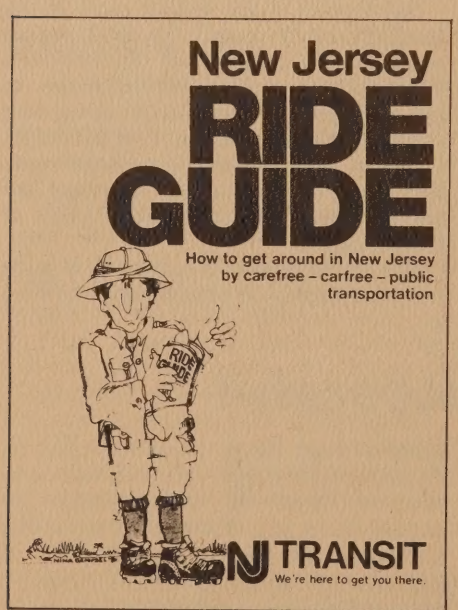
Runway testing

The Department has begun testing new runway marking and lighting devices to assist pilots in locating unpaved airports which blend in with the countryside making them difficult to find. A black and white pyramid-shaped locator has been selected for testing at Twin Pine Airport in Pennington and Alloway Airport near Salem.

New buses

From page 1

The schedule for the purchase of the new buses calls for the advertisement for bids in October and contract award by December with delivery approximately 18 months later.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We're here to get you there.

NJ TRANSIT has published a directory of public transportation available in the state. Copies can be obtained by writing to NJ TRANSIT, Box 101, 1035 Parkway Avenue, Trenton, 08625 or by phoning 609-292-3105.

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ATTENTION: PROGRAM CHAIRPERSONS

The Department of Transportation's Speakers Bureau is ready with its new slide presentation, "Where are we going?"

For more information, please contact Deborah Wathen-Finn, NJDOT, 1035 Parkway Avenue, Box 101, Trenton, NJ 08625.